

## Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 EA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /070 W

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R 171609Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5502

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

USUN NEW YORK 490

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 8844

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XC, IV

SUBJECT: IVORY COAST DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CAMBODIA  
AND VIETNAM

REF: A) ABIDJAN 8707, B) ABIDJAN 8757

1. GOIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM AND WITH CAMBODIA CAME AS COMPLETE SURPRISE TO US, TO OTHER DIPLOMATS HERE, AND, EVIDENTLY, TO MANY RESPONSIBLE IVORIAN OFFICIALS. FONOFF DIRECTOR FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS KANIE TOLD US HE HAD NOT BEEN CONSULTED AND WAS NOT INVOLVED, BUT SENIOR GOIC OFFICIALS HAVE SPOKEN OF NEED TO "WIDEN CONTACTS" AND OF NEUTRALITY AND NONINTERFERENCE IN OTHERS' INTERNAL AFFAIRS. RELATIONS WITH CAMBODIA MAY BE RATIONALIZED BY PREVIOUS FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY AND SIHANOUK. GOIC HAD PREVIOUSLY MAINTAINED RELATIONS WITH LON NOL AS LONG AS HE CONTROLLED PHNOM PENH. FACT THAT DIVISION OF NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM IS ESSENTIALLY FICTION  
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SEEMS TO HAVE HAD NO IMPACT ON GOIC THINKING. RELATIONS WITH

TWO VIETNAMS, HOWEVER, MAY REFLECT NOTHING MORE THAN GESTURE TOWARDS MAINTAINING "NEUTRAL" POSITION. GOIC MAY WELL CONSIDER IT HAS "FAVORED" U.S. IN OPPOSING EXPULSION OF ISRAEL FROM UNGA AT KAMPALA OAU AND LIMA NAC, AS WELL AS AT NEW YORK, AND IN ASSURANCES IVORY COAST WILL VOTE FOR FRIENDLY KOREAN RESOLUTION. GOIC HAS BEEN ACCUSED BY OTHER NONALIGNED OF BEING TOO MUCH IN WESTERN CAMP, AND THESE DECISIONS QUITE LIKELY AIMED AT RESTROING "BLANACE". ACTUAL EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS MAY BE DELAYED IN-DEFINITELY. (IN FACT, FOR ALL ITS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, GOIC HAS ONLY 23 AMBASSADORS AROUND WORLD, ACCREDITED TO NOT MORE THAN ABOUT 35 COUNTRIES.) DECISION MAY HAVE BEEN MADE AT THIS TIME LARGELY BECAUSE CAMBODIAN AND VIETNAMESE DELEGATIONS WERE IN NEW YORK AND BUTTONHOLED GOIC PERMREP.

2. FONMIN USHER HAS BEEN UNAVAILABLE DURING POLITICAL CONGRESS, BUT I HOPE TO SEE HIM NEXT WEEK. UNLESS DEPARTMENT OBJECTS, I PLAN RAISE NEW GOIC RELATIONSHIP WITH SOUTHEAST ASIA IN LOW-KEY MANNER AND INQUIRE AS TO SIGNIFICANCE AND TIMING. DOES DEPARTMENT HAVE OTHER QUESTIONS I SHOULD RAISE IN THIS AREA?  
SMITH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, FOREIGN RELATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** RowellE0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ABIDJA08844  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750362-0350  
**From:** ABIDJAN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 81  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 ABIDJAN 8707, 75 ABIDJAN 8757  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** RowellE0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 JUL 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** IVORY COAST DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM  
**TAGS:** PFOR, XC, IV, VS, SN, CB  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006